Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

News

Montana State Library
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VOLUME 19, NO. 8 MARCH 1991

Legislative Report

Montana's libraries would be directly affected by several bills now moving through the legislative process. They are:

• House Bill 30, the education telecommunications bill, is to have specific references to public libraries added when the bill arrives on the Senate side.

• HB 408, to exempt libraries from I-105, is currently on hold, along with a lot of other I-105 legislation.

• HB 474 was intended to carry the pieces of HB 193 (state aid to libraries) from last session. Since the other pieces of state aid have been folded into the State Library's budget, HB 474 is no longer needed and will be dropped.

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Receiving their service pins on February 26 were, from left to right: Darlene Staffeldt, director, Information Resources; Alberta (Birdie) Blanton, reader advisor, Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped; Sheila Cates, coordinator, Library Development, and Jacki Wrigg, accountant, Administration. (Not shown: Charles Voit.)

Kathy Brown, reference librarian in Information Resources, was presented with her 20-year service pin by State Librarian Richard Miller.

State Library Employees Receive Service Pins

State Librarian Richard Miller recognized five State Library staff members for their years of service during a staff meeting on February 26. They are:

Five-year pin: Sheila Cates, coordinator of Library Development.

Ten-year pin: Darlene Staffeldt, director of Information Resources; Alberta (Birdie) Blanton, reader advisor, Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped; Jacki Wrigg, accountant, Administration; Charles Voit, interlibrary loan technician, Information Resources.

Kathy Brown, reference librarian, Information Resources, had previously received her 20-year pin.

Barbara Baarson

'Super Volunteer' Works At Three Helena Libraries

Barbara Baarson is working nearly as many hours each month now as she did before she "retired."

Baarson, 67, gives her free time not only to the Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped at the State Library, but also to the Lewis & Clark Library and to School District 1's Instructional Media/Library Center.

"It helps me to do this. I couldn't sit at home and do nothing," Baarson said. She attributes a love for books and libraries to her early exposure to reading.

Baarson's willingness to work on a computer or to rewind cassette books is a big asset to the Library for the Blind, said Gen Allen, LBPH volunteer coordinator.

"She's tremendously valuable because of her versatility," Allen said. "She's able and wants to."

Baarson said she plans to take on yet another volunteer position--working with local children who need help with reading.

Patrons Adopt Magazines At Livingston Library

Due to a 20% annual increase in its magazine subscription budget, the Livingston-Park County Public Library has asked patrons to "adopt a magazine."

The appeal, done through a local newspaper ad listing the library's 120 magazine and nine newspaper subscriptions and the cost of each, generated a good response, according to Library Director June Phillips. As of March 1, the library had received more than 40 gifts.

Phillips said the library plans to ask patrons every year to "adopt a magazine."

Law Library Publishes Guide to Legal Research

The State Law Library recently published *A Guide to Montana Legal Research*, written by Stephen R. Jordan, reference librarian.

The 100-page guide provides a foundation from which to begin researching Montana law. It includes chapters on Montana's state and federal courts, legislative and administrative law, uniform laws and interstate compacts, and computer-assisted legal research.

It's intended for newly licensed attorneys, paralegals, legal secretaries, students and others.

Copies are available for $10 from the State Law Library, 444-3660.

Legislative Report

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• HB 817 would allow libraries formed under Title 7 to receive state aid. It passed the House and will have a Senate hearing shortly.

• HB 822 would allow locales to be exempt from I-105's property tax limits and to reimpose I-105, by public vote.

• House Joint Resolution 22, the acid-free paper bill, was given a "Do Pass" committee recommendation on March 7.

• Senate Bill 352, which would freeze the Coal Severance Tax at 20%, received a hearing March 8. SB 352 has implications for library federation funding.

"The most heartening aspect of the session so far is how often libraries are being mentioned by so many legislators and witnesses, even when the bills being discussed are not related to libraries," said State Library Richard Miller. "This appears to be a carryover from the success of last session. Of course it is much too early to count on anything. But so far, things look quite good."

Upcoming Conferences

Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, will offer a **Management Development Program** and an **Advanced Management Program** this year.

The Management Development Program is for librarians who are directors, assistant directors and department heads. Dates for this program are April 21-26, July 21-26 and September 8-13.

The Advanced Management Program is for library directors or directors of main departments in large libraries. Dates are April 21-26 and July 21-26.

For details, contact the Center for Management Development, School of Business Administration, Miami University, 513-529-2132.

The second **Advanced Research Institute** will be held July 7-26 at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois campus at Urbana-Champaign.

For information, contact Dean Leigh Estabrook at 217-333-3280.

Amy Fisher

Student Essay on Library Automation Wins Contest

Amy Fisher, a Lambert School freshman, won first place and $100 for "Education Through Telecommunications," an essay on how libraries could link via computer to provide information to patrons.

Fisher's essay was entered in a regional contest with the topic, "Improve Education With Telecommunications." High school students in Lambert, Circle, Roy and Custer submitted essays.

Children's Book Reviews

The key after each review gives the grade levels for which the book would be appropriate, the reviewer's assessment of the book's quality (Q) and popularity (P) level, with Q4 and P4 being the highest possible rating, the publisher's information, publication date, number of pages, price and ISBN number.

Fire! In Yellowstone, A True Adventure, story by Robert Ekey, photographs from *Yellowstone on Fire*, copyright 1989 by the *Billings Gazette* (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt, Information Resources director, Montana State Library).

This book briefly describes the fire that destroyed nearly 1 million acres of Yellowstone National Park during several months in 1988.

The photographs are excellent. The text is brief and to the point. The print is large type for younger readers, but some of the terms used (e.g., abundant, geysers, antics and infrared) make it more appropriate for the older children.

The listings of organizations, books for further reading and glossary of words at the end are all helpful additions to the text. The temptation is here to purchase a second or third copy of *Yellowstone on Fire* rather than this title.

(Grades 2-8; Q4/P2; Gareth Stevens in association with Falcon Press; 1990; 32 pp.; $10.95; ISBN 0-8368-0226-8.)

Beaky, written and illustrated by Jez Alborough (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt).

An egg falls to the ground and breaks open. Out comes a creature, but just what sort of creature is it? Not a frog, because it cannot jump. Not a snake. Not a fish. Frog names the creature Beaky and the helps it on a quest for identity. The lively watercolor illustrations are a definite plus for this book.

(Grades PS-3; Q4/P3; Houghton Mifflin Co., New York; 1990; 25 unnumbered pages; $13.95; ISBN 0-395-53348-1.)

The Sandal, story by Tony Bradman and pictures by Philippe Dupasquier (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt).

"Time passes and places change, but little girls and their knack for losing a shoe stay the same." This is a wonderful picture book about three lost shoes and three time periods.

One should spend lots of time with the details in the pictures. Text is only available to accompany the "today" time frame.

(Grades PS-3; Q3/P3; Viking Kestrel; 1989; 22 unnumbered pages; $12.95; ISBN 0-670-82992-7.)

Gumboot's Chocolaty Day, written and illustrated by Mick Inkpen (reviewed by Cathy Siegner, Publicity/Youth Services Specialist, Montana State Library).

Our porcine hero, Gumboot, gets a big bar of chocolate as a gift from his aunt and proceeds to bike to the park to share what's left of it with the ducks.

He finds out that hungry ducks prefer bread to chocolate, but a well-fed duck will return the favor when Gumboot's last piece accidentally gets deep-sixed. Wonderful watercolor illustrations.

(Grades PS-2; Q4/P4; Doubleday; 1991; unpaged; $11.95; ISBN 0-385-41490-0.)

The Sailor's Bride, written and illustrated by Tony Waters (reviewed by Cathy Siegner).

Susanna's parents don't approve when she marries Whitewhiskers, a sailor mouse with a gold earring. They warn Susanna he'll be gone to sea for months at a time. But Susanna finds much to do around their seaside home while Whitewhiskers sails the ocean blue.

Her idyllic life shattered when her husband is reported lost at sea, Susanna courageously gathers up their 10 little mice children, rents a boat and sets out in search. Enthusiastic help is forthcoming from a giant sea turtle and a seagull (especially after they sample Susanna's "tuna-and-cheese sandwiches with celeries.")

The charming characters and settings strongly evoke Beatrix Potter. This is a delightful book.

(Grades PS-3; Q4/P4; Doubleday; 1991; unpaged; $13.95; ISBN 0-385-41441-2.)

You Breathe In, You Breathe Out: All About Your Lungs, by David A. Adler (reviewed by Barbara Benish, librarian, Montana City Elementary School).

Part of a Discovering Science Series, this book explains how humans breathe and how all the parts of the respiratory system work together.

The author does a fine job of making each part understandable by introducing a general area and then breaking it down into scientifically accurate terms that come alive with appropriate analogies. For example, he discusses the body parts used in basic breathing, such as the trachea and epiglottis, and then moves into the lungs. By showing a cluster of grapes and comparing the main stem to the bronchi, the smaller stem to the bronchioles and the grapes to the alveoli, children receive a perfectly understandable comparison.

I really liked the format and would like to see others in the series for my primary and intermediate students. Some of the watercolor illustrations of kids were unappealing, but all the explanatory graphics were well done. A glossary completes this useful volume.

(Grades K-4; Q3/P3; Franklin Watts; 32 pp.; $12.90.)

Toughboy and Sister, by Kirkpatrick Hill (reviewed by Barbara Benish).

This survival story of two Athabascan children is well told. By beginning the story with the childbirth death of the mother, the author can rapidly explore the cultural background and kinship ties of the villagers.

"Toughboy" is the tribal nickname for 11-year-old John, and his younger sister, Annie, is left with "Sister."

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Their grieving, drinking father decides, come spring, to try and set up the family's traditional salmon fishing camp. Disaster strikes when he returns to camp from a drunken spree and drowns within sight of his children.

The kids survive a summer alone thanks to Sister's natural intuitiveness and the diligence of her less-intelligent brother.

I thought the author realistically portrayed the tension that runs through kids who are dependent on a sporadically undependable caretaker. She also wrote very convincingly about the survival tactics of the two. This book will probably be popular because of the adventurous plot, but I'll be anxious to see how kids respond to the sociological threads woven into the story.

(Grades 4-7; Q4/P3; Margaret K. McElderry Books, New York; 121 pp.; $12.95; ISBN 0-689-50506-X.)

The Elderberry Thicket, by Joan T. Zeier (reviewed by Michael Hutchinson, children's dept., Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

This first novel paints a warm, vibrant and realistic picture of a Wisconsin farm girl growing up in the late 1930s.

When 12-year-old Franny's father loses his job as a hired hand on a local farm, he is forced to leave home to look for work in a nation still gripped by the Great Depression. Franny, her mother and younger siblings must find the strength and self-reliance to keep the family going in his absence.

Rich characterizations and the author's intimate knowledge of the locale are the highlights of this excellent period piece.

(Grades 5-8; Q4/P3; Atheneum, New York; 154 pp.; $12.95.)

An Album of Voyager, by Maury Solomon (reviewed by Joyce G. Johnson, Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

This book is a high-interest summary of Voyager 1 and 2's "Grand Tour" past Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune from launching in 1977 to completion 12 years later in 1989. Each planet is featured in a chapter containing history, Voyager's discoveries and photographs. Highlights in this excellent, should-buy book are large color photos, a glossary, bibliography and index.

(Grades 5-8; Q4/P4; Franklin Watts, New York; 64 pp.; $13.90.)

Bunkhouse Journal, by Diane Johnston Hamm (reviewed by Judy Stephenson, librarian, Big Sandy Schools).

Coming of age has never been easy. Sandy Mannix, a 16-year-old working on his cousin's ranch, records the winter of 1910-11 in *Bunkhouse Journal*. The motherless child of an abusive alcoholic, Sandy has finally left his father to the streets of Denver.

Winter on a Wyoming sheep ranch, where his cousin's husband grudgingly agrees to keep Sandy on as the sole off-season hand, is a time of yearning and guilt, hope and frustration, and finally, acceptance of his family history, himself and death as a part of life.

The story is as timeless as the issues of alcoholism and abuse, youth and age, hopelessness and endless possibilities.

(Grades 7-10; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York; 89 pp.; $11.95.)

Showa: The Age of Hirohito, by Dorothy and Thomas Hoobler (reviewed by Judy Stephenson).

Hirohito, the 124th emperor of Japan and divine descendant of the sun goddess, Amaterasu, lived through the turbulence of two world wars and witnessed both a nadir and a zenith of his country's economic life.

A leader with little real power yet bearing and mantle of divinity, Hirohito chose to call his reign Showa, "enlightened peace." Ironically, his nation had to suffer the loss of millions of lives, a crushing defeat finalized by the most devastating power yet employed by man, and the denial of the emperor's divinity before Showa could begin in earnest. By the time Hirohito died in 1989 after a 62-year reign, Japan had reached a position of economic power second to none.

Thirty-two black-and-white photographs, a bibliography and an index make this book a valuable tool for student research.

(Grades 7-12; Q3/P3; Walker and Co., New York; 176 pp.; $15.95.)

The Throwaway Society, by Sally Lee (reviewed by Judy Stephenson).

In realistic language, Lee explores the mounting problems caused by our throwaway society. She looks at our culture of convenience, the increasing seriousness and immensity of the disposal problem, the ways and means of collecting and safely disposing of various types of waste, and the relatively new frontier of recycling.

If we ever hope to win the waste disposal war, we'll have to memorize and live Lee's "... 3 Rs of source reduction - reduce, reuse, recycle." The highest living standard in the world loses some of its appeal when it translates into mountains of refuse towering over us.

Lee's work is accompanied by a glossary, bibliography and an index. Numerous references to specific incidents, dates, measures and laws make the work useful for research.

(Grades 9-12; Q4/P3; Franklin Watts, New York; 128 pp.; $12.90.)

Puss in Boots, by John S. Goodall (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt).

This favorite old tale (about the adventures of Puss and his young master as they travel through the country seeking their fortunes) is beautifully interpreted in Goodall's lovely watercolor paintings.

This is wordless storytelling from the master of the genre. Half pages used between each double-spread provide a wealth of surprises as each one is turned in a book that will delight young children and their elders.

(Grades PS-3; Q4/P3; Margaret K. McElderry Books; 1990; 56 pp.; $14.95; ISBN 0-689-50521-3.)

Press Roundup

A new automated system has allowed the **Missoula Public Library** to be open on Mondays for the first time in years.

Libraries observing the second annual **Montana Book Week** (January 20-26) with special activities included those in Laurel, Billings, Chinook and Helena.

The **Glendive Public Library** board is looking for new library quarters--possibly in a former bank building.

Cascade County's historical archives may soon move to the **Great Falls Public Library**.

Reopening of the improved **Lewistown City Library** took place January 22, with an open house held on Valentine's Day.

A dispute emerged between union employees and management of the **Butte-Silver Bow Public Library** over how to fill a part-time position.

The **Bozeman Public Library** is co-sponsoring a four-day grantwriting workshop in May.

Contributors to the **Parmly Billings Library** foundation had their names engraved on a plaque to be displayed at the library.

The **Parmly Billings** board has asked the city council to eliminate a $1-per-book reservation fee.

A children's video collection is now available at the **Blaine County Library** in Chinook, thanks to a special grant.

The **Bitterroot Public Library** in Hamilton got a $7,500 grant to continue public access computers and enhanced reference and information desk services.

A final coat of paint is all that's needed to touch up the new home of the **North Valley Public Library** in Stevensville.

The **Flathead County Library** in Kalispell expects its new Dynix automated system in April and is asking for suggested names.

A recent phone-a-thon netted more than $20,000 for the **Great Falls Public Library** to buy books and increase its foundation's endowment fund.

A "Pennies for Pages" campaign at the **Havre-Hill County Library** has raised nearly $500 for book purchases.

A $1,000 memorial gift to the **Thompson Falls Public Library** will be dedicated to children's materials.

For confidentiality, patrons at the **Henry Malley Memorial Library** in Broadus now get numbers on their library cards instead of names.

The Central Montana Foundation donated $500 to the **Hobson Library**.

Final playoff was February 27 in the **Butte-Silver Bow Public Library**'s annual Battle of the Books.

Continuing education classes are being taught at the **Kohrs Memorial Library** in Deer Lodge.

Those with relatives and friends in the Gulf War contacted them more quickly via the Compu-serve system at the **Boulder Community Library**.

The building fund for a new **Broadwater County Library** in Townsend is $100 richer, thanks to a women's club donation.

Fundraising is underway for a new **Boulder Community Library**.

The **Twin Bridges Public Library** is asking patrons what services they want via a questionnaire.

Four levels of adult literacy materials are being offered at the **Eureka Branch Library**.

Patrons at the **Lewis & Clark Library** in Helena and the **Great Falls Public Library** can check out books at either library with the same card.

A $1,000 memorial to the **Daniels County Library** in Scobey will partly be used to buy tables and chairs for the library's new meeting area.

A one-day record of 515 items checked out was set February 1 at the **Bitterroot Public Library** in Hamilton.

A "Who-Dun-It" party was held February 6 at the **Liberty County Library** in Chester.

The **Livingston Public Library** began a poetry series in February.

A newspaper indexing project has been started at the **Fallon County Library** in Baker.

The **Liberty County Library** in Chester closed for a day in honor of former director Lilly Eveland, who died of cancer on February 5.

Peggy Arnold of the **Laurel Public Library** was profiled in the local paper.

With $4,000 from the BN Foundation, the **Rosebud County Library** in Forsyth will buy shelving, equipment and furniture.

Children's programs at the **Wibaux Public Library** will benefit from a $250 donation from the Wibaux Civic Club.

The **Hearst Free Library** in Anaconda will use $1,650 from the Anaconda Junior Women toward handicapped access facilities.

Discussions have begun on forming a county library district to help support the **Plains Library**.

Automation Update

The Glasgow City-County Library has automated half its collection, said director Jim Jondrow, and plans to link up later via modem with the other Golden Plains Federation libraries and the local high school library when their automation projects are completed.

On February 7, a group of 23 public and school librarians from surrounding areas got a hands-on experience with the Dynix Scholar system at Dawson County High School library in Glendive.

'Children's Book Bridges' Recognizes Cooperation

Children's Book Bridges is a competition to acknowledge cooperation between youth libraries and public or private groups resulting in new advocates for and readers of children's trade books. Deadline is July 2. Contact the Children's Book Council, 568 Broadway, New York, NY, 10012, 212-966-1990.

Big Horn Library Gets Year-round Bookmobile

The Big Horn County Library in Hardin got a new bookmobile in February and plans to put a few miles on it by circulating 3,000 books year-round to 13 schools.

The Montana Coal Board contributed matching money to Big Horn County to pay for the $81,163 bookmobile, a 1990 Blue Bird built in Canton, Ohio.

Friends of Libraries Distributes Compact

Friends of Libraries U.S.A. (FOLUSA) is encouraging school and public libraries to circulate and collect signatures on a Library Compact petition.

Copies of the compact and the petitions will be given to President Bush and Congress at the White House Conference on Libraries and Information Services in July.

The compact, which affirms the values of reading, literacy and libraries, comes in a regular and an elementary school version.

FOLUSA asks that signatures be mailed in by June 1. For copies of the Compact, contact FOLUSA at 1326 Spruce St., Philadelphia, PA, 19107, or 215-790-1674.

Calendar of Events

March

20-23 Public Library Association national conference, San Diego

April

14-20 National Library Week
15 National Center for the Book Day
16 ALA Legislative Day, Washington, D.C.
17 Great American Read-Aloud
24 Library Services Advisory Council, Missoula
24-27 MLA annual conference, Missoula
27 State Library Commission, Missoula

Institute Deadline Nears

Reminder: The Montana State Library's second Reference Institute will be held June 17-19 at the Colonial Inn in Helena. The deadline for registration is Friday, April 19.

For more information and/or to register, contact Diane Gunderson at the State Library, 444-5349.

Around The State

Public Library Changes:

Arriving--Debbie Clapshaw, clerk, Chouteau County Free Library, Fort Benton; Patricia McCallum, director, Drummond Public Library; Andrea Stensland, acting director, Roosevelt County Library, Wolf Point.

Departing--Philip L. Heikkinen, collection management librarian, Lewis & Clark Library, Helena.

Library Numbers Change

Please change your copy of the 1991 Montana Library Directory to reflect the following:

The new fax number for the Blaine County Library in Chinook is 357-2552. The correct phone number for the Billings Vocational Technical Center library is 656-4445.

Condolences Extended

Two Montana librarians died in February: Lilly Eveland, who was director of the Liberty County Library in Chester for 40 years (1949-1989), and Carole C. Speake, librarian at the Friends of the Bicentennial Library in Colstrip.

Montana State Library Commission

Mary Doggett, *Chair*, White Sulphur Springs
C.E. Abramson, *Vice-Chair*, Missoula
Lloyd Wallin, Deer Lodge
Nancy Keenan, Helena
Mary Hudspeth, Libby
Anne Hauptman, Billings
Michael Schulz, Dillon

Commissioners' addresses are in the *Montana Library Directory*

Richard T. Miller, Jr., *State Librarian*

Cathy Siegner, *Newsletter Editor*, 444-5353

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